

Questions Asked During Commissioner Holliday's Twitter Town Hall – Sept. 19, 2012

Q: Why support CIITS (Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System)? Instead of spending time planning meaningful lessons, I'm stuck entering data. How will this help my students?

Doc H: CIITS is about resources for teachers, not data entry. Let us know more specifics about how you're using it. We intend for teachers to use PD360 in CIITS & the digital resources available within with students in their classrooms.

Q: I saw a stat that Kentucky was ranked 42nd per capita spending on education. With new cuts how can we not let our kids slip behind?

Doc H: I agree we need to invest in education.

Q: Can you tell us what, if anything, is being done specifically to address the pension crisis facing the state?

Doc H: There's a legislative pension task force currently meeting to discuss problem. I would stay tuned to them for recommendations.

Q: What do you believe is the most profound step individual schools can take to impact student achievement in Kentucky right now?

Doc H: High expectations come first, differentiated instruction comes second, and support for teachers always.

Q: Is the goal for the state with CIITS at this point for logins to the system or usage of the system?

Doc H: Annual goal is usage and publishing logins for awareness.

Q: What are Kentucky/@KyDeptofEd doing to address opportunities and concerns with the explosion of BYOD (Bring Your Own Devices) schools this year?

Doc H: KDE supports BYOD, and we can help w/guidelines for use & w/bandwidth concerns.

Q: What do we really mean when we say "differentiated instruction?"

Doc H: Differentiated instruction is meeting the needs to every student based on classroom data.

Q: Is it realistic to expect teachers to "differentiate" for 150, 175, 200 students?

Doc H: Yes, using technology.

Q: We are beginning to allow BYOD. When will we stop blocking access to online tools?

Doc H: Let KDE know what access you need but make sure you check out Live@edu too.

Q: We differentiate OUR strategies so students can meet OUR goals. I prefer to think of differentiated learning. What are their goals?

Doc H: Students are more engaged when they see the relevance of our (school/state) learning goals. Every student should have an ILP.

Q: Kenton County (is) being audited for mismanagement of funds. Can districts be required to be transparent with their budgets?

Doc H: Districts should always be transparent.

Q: What is the issue with Google and other online resources being blocked? Can we overcome for benefits to students?

Doc H: Compare with Live@edu resources and let us know what you cannot do with Live@edu.

Q: What is the core mission of education? Educating at artificial & changing "high levels" or preparing students for life?

Doc H: To me, it's preparing students to become productive citizens.

Q: It's not about what it can or cannot do. It's what is comfortable for students/teachers. Can we differentiate tools?

Doc H: We are fast approaching the era of personalized learning.

Q: What's biggest change needed to make that reality? RT@kydeptofed: Doc H: We are fast approaching the era of personalized learning.

Doc H: Removal of barriers such as seat time, Carnegie units, school calendar. Must be clear about mastery required.

Q: What kind of feedback have we received from the districts/schools piloting the new teacher performance evaluation system?

Doc H: In the early stages of feedback, but very positive so far. On track for statewide pilot in 2013-14.

These questions were received after the end of the Twitter Town Hall:

Q: Has the state looked at going to an all year school calendar?

Local school systems may implement alternate calendars, as long as they meet minimum requirements for instructional time. Kentucky law only mandates that school calendars not begin before July 1 and not end after June 30, so year-round school is an option.

Q: To advance our Commonwealth for the future we need to invest in education. How can we petition lawmakers to buy into this idea?

Lawmakers need to hear from their constituents that this is a crucial need. Educators, parents and community members should contact their state and federal legislators to encourage them to make education investment a priority.